

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Adoption Assistance Program (AAP)

DESCRIPTION:

Federal subsidies were created by Congress (through Public Law 96-272, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980) to encourage the adoption of special needs children and to remove the financial disincentives for families to adopt. Recognizing that adoptive parents often experience financial difficulty meeting the special needs of children who were formerly placed in California's foster care system, the state Legislature created the AAP. In creating the program, the Legislature intended to benefit children in foster care by providing the security and stability of a permanent home through adoption. Children may receive a federally-funded subsidy under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act or a non-federally funded subsidy per Welfare and Institutions Code sections 16115 through 16123.

An adopted child who receives AAP benefits from California may move anywhere in the world and the adoptive parent(s) will still receive monthly subsidy payments until the child reaches the age of 21 if the child meets eligibility criteria.

The benefits available for AAP-eligible children may include a monthly financial benefit, medical insurance through Medi-Cal, non-recurring adoption expenses (up to \$400 per child), payment for residential treatment for health and/or behavioral problems and continuation of AAP benefits in a subsequent adoption.

FUNDING:

Effective July 2011, the AAP program is funded with federal Title IV-E, Local Revenue Fund and county funds.

ELIGIBILITY:

To meet the AAP-eligibility requirements, a child must: be under the age of 18 or a nonminor dependent; meet the three-part special needs determination; be on the Title IV-E or state eligibility paths; and be a United States citizen or a qualified alien. The responsible public agency will determine the child's special needs eligibility for participation in the program. If the child is deemed eligible, the responsible public agency will negotiate a signed adoption assistance agreement, or a deferred adoption assistance agreement will be executed with the adoptive parents, prior to the adoption finalization.

The AAP benefit shall not exceed the age-related state-approved foster family home rate the child would have received had they not been adopted. If the child's needs are greater and require a higher level of care and supervision, they may qualify for a Specialized Care Increment in addition to the basic foster family home rate. A child who is developmentally delayed and a current consumer of a California Regional Center may qualify for the dual agency flat rate.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Adoption Assistance Program (AAP)

OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Historical Funding

	(in millions)			
Fiscal Year	Total	Federal	State	County
2007-08	\$ 706.8	\$294.2	\$309.4	\$103.1
2008-09	\$754.1	\$314.6	\$329.6	\$109.9
2009-10*	\$798.0	\$366.8	\$323.4	\$107.8
2010-11*	\$823.2	\$370.3	\$339.7	\$113.2
2011-12	\$853.3	\$350.0	\$377.5	\$125.8

* Includes the impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) increase in federal financial participation.

FY 2011-12 includes an ARRA adjustment

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Adoptions Program

DESCRIPTION:

The Adoptions Program provides adoption-related services in all 58 counties through a collaboration of public and private adoption agencies in the state. There are currently five types of adoptions in California, three of which (Agency, Independent and Intercountry) are regulated by the state and two of these (Agency and Independent) are funded by a combination of county and federal funds and offset by any collected fees. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) does not regulate or fund Step-Parent Adoptions or Adult Adoptions.

- **Agency Adoptions:** Through public and private adoption agencies, children who have been abused, neglected and/or exploited and under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court are placed into homes approved for adoption when returning to their parents is not an option. Adoptions of children who have been voluntarily relinquished by parent(s) to private agencies also come under the auspices of this program but do not receive public funding.
 - **Tribal Customary Adoptions:** This type of Agency Adoption is for children who are under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court and eligible under the Social Security Act, Indian Child Welfare Act, and the California Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC) sections 10553.1 and 10553.2. This type of adoption must consider the customs, laws and traditions of a child's tribe.
- **Independent Adoptions:** The primary role of a public agency in an Independent Adoption is to investigate a proposed adoption and present a report to the court when the biological parents choose to place their children directly with adoptive parents of their choice. Only public adoption agencies conduct Independent (private) Adoptions.

FUNDING:

Effective July 2011, the Adoptions program is funded with Title IV-E, Local Revenue Fund and county funds. Counties now have the option to provide their services directly, contract with another county or contract with CDSS. Private agency activities costs incurred in the adoption of a child in the custody of a public agency are reimbursed through the Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program described below.

ELIGIBILITY:

While the requirements vary somewhat across the various types of adoptions, prospective adoptive parents must be assessed by an adoption agency.

Similarly, children qualify for the services in various ways: parent relinquishment to a public adoption agency; referral by the juvenile court; an independent adoption petition. With the exception of Tribal Customary Adoption, parental rights of birth parents must be terminated prior to adoption.

Private adoption agencies are required to be licensed by CDSS.

In an Independent Adoption, the birth parent(s) personally select the prospective adoptive family based on personal knowledge about them. The birth parent(s) place the child directly with the

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Adoptions Program

ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED):

selected family without the involvement of an adoption agency. Additionally, adoption service providers are required, and certified by CDSS, to advise birth parents of their rights and assist the birth parents in completing an adoptive placement agreement.

Adoption requirements are detailed in W&IC, Health and Safety Code, Family Code, and regulations that outline the requirements for both public and private operation of adoption agencies and the direct adoption services provided by licensed adoption agencies.

Additionally, Intercountry Adoptions must meet the requirements of the international Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, which is an international agreement to safeguard intercountry adoptions by establishing international standards of practice. This convention became effective in the United States April 1, 2008.

OTHER PROGRAMS:

The Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) is intended to remove barriers to adoption of children with special needs, primarily those in the care of a county child welfare agency. This program provides a monthly benefit payment and Medi-Cal benefits to the adoptive parent based on a negotiated agreement up to the amount the child would receive if placed in foster care. (A full description of AAP is provided on pages 1 and 2.)

The Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program reimburses private agencies for activities performed on behalf of children in the care of a public agency and who are eligible for AAP.

OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Agency Adoptions

Agency Adoption program data can be found at the CDSS Data Systems Design Bureau's website: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/res/pdf/Childtrends/AD56AAgencyAnnual.pdf>.

Independent Adoptions

Independent Adoption program data can be found at the CDSS Data Systems Design Bureau's website: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/res/pdf/Childtrends/AD56DIndependentAnnual.pdf>.

Intercountry Adoptions

Intercountry Adoption program data can be found at the US Department of State's website: http://adoption.state.gov/about_us/statistics.php.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CalFresh

DESCRIPTION:

CalFresh (formerly known as Food Stamps) is California's version of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), an entitlement program that provides monthly benefits to assist low-income households in purchasing the food needed to maintain adequate nutritional levels. In general, these benefits are paid for any food or food product intended for human consumption. Benefits may not be used for items such as alcoholic beverages, cigarettes or paper products.

National eligibility standards and benefit levels are established by the United States Congress and administered nationally by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is the designated single state agency responsible for program supervision at the state level. The counties are responsible for administration of the caseloads.

FUNDING:

The benefits are 100 percent federally funded. The funding for CalFresh administration costs are 50 percent federal funds, 35 percent state General Fund (GF) and 15 percent county funds, except for state-mandated program changes, which are 50 percent federal funds and 50 percent GF.

ELIGIBILITY:

To participate in CalFresh, households must meet certain income-eligibility standards. The gross income limit is 130 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL), and the net income limit is 100 percent of the FPL. Households that include at least one member who is age 60 or older or disabled only have to meet the net income limit.

There are two categories of CalFresh households. Public Assistance households are those households in which all members receive benefits from the California Work Opportunity for Kids (CalWORKs) Program. Non-Assistance households are those households in which at least one member does not receive CalWORKs benefits.

Other eligibility factors include residency, citizenship and registration for employment.

Modified Categorical Eligibility (MCE)

Households who qualify for MCE, a policy to approve CalFresh benefits without regard to other resources, must still meet the income-eligibility standards and certain other factors of eligibility. Otherwise income-eligible households are made MCE by receiving or having access to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-funded "Family Planning – PUB 275" brochure.

Households who receive or are eligible to receive cash assistance under the CalWORKs or General Assistance/Relief (GA/GR) Programs are categorically eligible for CalFresh. This means that CalFresh defers to CalWORKs and GA/GR eligibility factors.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CalFresh

ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED):

CalFresh benefits are issued through an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. By using the EBT card, cardholders can access food benefits at point-of-sale terminals of retailers authorized by USDA to accept CalFresh benefits. Grocers are reimbursed directly by the federal government for the dollar value of the CalFresh benefits.

OTHER PROGRAMS:

California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

The CFAP is the state's program for legal noncitizen adults who meet all federal SNAP eligibility criteria except that they have resided in this country for fewer than five years. This is a state-funded program.

Transitional CalFresh (TC) Benefits

The TC continues benefits for families terminating participation in the CalWORKs program without the need to re-establish CalFresh eligibility. Households that lose their CalWORKs cash aid benefits receive five months of TC benefits.

Restaurant Meals

The restaurant meals program (RMP) is an optional county program that enables certified homeless, disabled and elderly CalFresh households to use benefits to purchase meals at participating restaurants. Currently, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Clara and Tuolumne Counties operate a RMP. These counties comprise just over 40 percent of the state's total CalFresh caseload.

CalFresh Nutrition Education (CNE)

To improve the health and nutrition of California's low-income residents, CDSS has contracted with two partner agencies to provide CNE services with the overarching goals of increasing fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity levels among the CalFresh and CalFresh-eligible populations.

The University of California at Davis' CNE Program provides nutrition classes for CalFresh-eligible adults in classroom settings, trains teachers in low-income schools to use university-developed nutrition education youth curricula in their classroom and works with low-income schools to provide services to parents.

The Network for a Healthy California (*Network*), administered by the California Department of Public Health, is a network of local governmental and non-profit agencies to provide a mix of CNE services and activities to meet the needs of the local areas. The *Network* also initiates social marketing campaigns in targeted low-income areas using mass media, including billboards, TV spots, printed materials and radio.

CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T)

The E&T is an optional county program designed to improve the employability and increase the self-sufficiency of Non-Assistance CalFresh applicants and recipients. The E&T participants are

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CalFresh

OTHER PROGRAMS (CONTINUED):

assigned to components that include job club, job search, workfare, vocational training and basic education, including English as a Second Language.

Participants are reimbursed for transportation and other ancillary costs needed to take part in E&T. Those who are required to participate in E&T and fail to do so without a good reason are temporarily ineligible for CalFresh benefits.

Disaster CalFresh Program

The Disaster CalFresh Program establishes temporary eligibility standards for victims of a disaster, such as a flood, fire, earthquake or other catastrophe. A major disaster is determined by the declaration of the President of the United States.

Some disaster expenses, such as costs to repair damage to home or property necessary to continue work, temporary shelter expenses and expenses for moving out of an evacuated area, are taken into consideration when determining eligibility for disaster food benefits.

If eligible, benefits are issued on the same day or within 72 hours from the time of application. Recipients who are eligible and receive benefits during a disaster are not required to repay these benefits.

PROGRAM DATA:

Error Rates

There are two types of error rates used to measure program performance for CalFresh.

The “active” error rate measures whether a household is receiving the correct allotment of benefits. States that have an active error rate of six percent or higher for two consecutive federal fiscal years (FFY) will be subject to federal fiscal sanctions. California’s active error rate for FFY 2011 was 4.13 percent.

The “negative” error rate measures whether a case was accurately denied or terminated. Currently, there are no fiscal liabilities associated with the negative error rate.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CalWORKs Program

DESCRIPTION:

The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program is California's version of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. CalWORKs provides temporary cash assistance to meet basic family needs. It also provides education, employment and training programs to assist the family's move toward self-sufficiency. Components of CalWORKs include time limits on eligibility, work requirements, supportive services to encourage program participation, and parental responsibility.

FUNDING:

California receives an annual \$3.7 billion TANF block grant. To receive the TANF funds, California must provide a minimum level of state expenditures, or Maintenance-of-Effort (MOE), of \$2.9 billion annually. State-only programs funded with state General Fund are countable towards the MOE requirement. Approximately 2.5 percent of assistance payments are county-funded.

ELIGIBILITY:

Eligibility

To meet eligibility requirement, families must meet income and asset tests, and children must be deprived of parental support and care due to the incapacity, death or absence of a parent or unemployment of the principal wage-earner. Persons convicted of a felony related to the possession, use or distribution of a controlled substance and persons fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement after conviction of a felony are not eligible for CalWORKs.

Time Limits

State law provides for a cumulative 48-month lifetime limit on cash aid for adults. Children of adults who exhaust the 48-month time limit may continue to receive cash aid, if otherwise eligible, up to age 18.

Work Requirements

A "work first" attitude is fostered through strict work requirements. Parents and caretaker adults, unless exempt from work requirements, are required to participate in Welfare-to-Work (WTW) activities as a condition of receiving aid.

WTW activities include unsubsidized and subsidized employment, work experience, on-the-job training, grant-based on-the-job training, work study, self-employment, community service, adult basic education, job skills training, vocational education, job search/job readiness assistance, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, domestic abuse services and other activities necessary to assist recipients in obtaining employment.

An adult in a one-parent assistance unit (AU) is required to participate in WTW activities for an average of 30 hours per week each month. In a two-parent AU, one or both adults must participate in WTW activities for a combined total average of 35 hours per week.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CalWORKs Program

ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED):

Adults may receive a total of 24 months of CalWORKs services and activities pursuant to a county plan. These 24 months need not be consecutive and can be used at any time during the adult's 48 months of eligibility. Once the 24 months have been exhausted, adults must meet the federal work participation requirements, unless they are exempted or receive an extension.

CalWORKs has a "universal engagement" requirement to ensure recipients are participating in appropriate WTW activities as soon as possible. Counties are required to develop WTW plans with a recipient within 90 days from the date an individual begins receiving cash aid.

Supportive Services

Supportive services, including child care, transportation, ancillary expenses, and personal counseling are available for families participating in WTW activities. If needed supportive services are not available, the recipient has good cause for not participating.

Parental Responsibility

CalWORKs encourages parental responsibility by requiring parents to immunize their aided child under the age of six, to enroll their school-age children in school and to cooperate with the child support enforcement process. Failure to meet these requirements results in a reduction of the adult's portion of the grant.

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Cal-Learn Program

Special supportive services and intensive case management services are also available for pregnant and parenting teens. These services are provided through the Cal-Learn Program, which is designed to encourage pregnant and parenting teens to return to and/or stay in school. Cal-Learn teens can get bonuses or be sanctioned four times a year depending on the teen's grades. An additional bonus is given to each teen upon earning a high school diploma or equivalent. Participation in Cal-Learn is mandatory for pregnant or parenting teens ages 18 and under and voluntary for specified 19-year-olds.

OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Participation Rates

State Work Participation Rate (WPR) requirements are designed to assist in meeting federal WPR in order for California to avoid fiscal penalties. Federal WPR requirements are as follows: 50 percent of all families with work-eligible adults (both one- and two-parent) must be working or in a countable work activity for 30 hours per week; 90 percent of families with two work-eligible adults must be working or in a work activity for a combined total of 35 hours each week.

The federal government can assess penalties on the state for not achieving the required WPRs. In California, counties that do not achieve the federal participation rates will share in any such fiscal penalties.

For a history of California's TANF WPR, please refer to Reference Documents in this binder.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CalWORKs Child Care Program

DESCRIPTION:

The state's child care system includes several programs, each addressing different child care needs. The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Child Care Program was established in 1997 to provide subsidized services for welfare program participants and low-income families. CalWORKs child care is administered in three stages. Stage One is administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Stages Two and Three are administered by the California Department of Education (CDE).

Stages One and Two services are considered entitlements. Stage Three services are available to the extent that funding is made available.

FUNDING:

The chart below shows the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13 budget for child care programs, including those administered by CDE.

Budget Act of 2012 (\$ millions)	
CalWORKs Stage One	\$408.6
CalWORKs Stage Two	419.3
CalWORKs Stage Three	148.4
General Child Care	464.9
Alternative Payment	174.0
Migrant Day Care	26.0
CalSAFE	19.9
State Preschool	484.4
After School Programs	690.9
Community Colleges	9.2
Trustline/Self-Certification	7.8
Quality Services	49.5
Other	27.7
Total Costs	\$2,930.6

ELIGIBILITY:

Eligibility

Eligibility is based on the total income and need of families. To receive subsidized child care, a family cannot earn more than 70 percent of the FY 2007-08 state median income. For a family of three, that amount is \$3,518 per month. Families must have a need for care; for example, they must be working or going to school. CalWORKs participants are eligible to receive subsidized child care if they are employed or if they are participating in approved welfare-to-work activities. Child care is provided for children through the age of 12 under specific conditions. Child care and development services are available for children with exceptional needs up to age 21.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CalWORKs Child Care Program

ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED):

There are several factors that influence the type of care a family selects for their children.

Accessibility

In many areas of the state, there are no available slots at a licensed child care center or family day care. In addition, there may be a shortage of licensed slots for infants and toddlers. As a result, families in these situations may use license-exempt care.

Flexibility

Working families may choose child care based upon the family's situation. Some families choose license-exempt care because they need care at non-traditional hours (i.e., evenings and weekends), they want all of their children at one location, they may have cultural and language preferences or they want care to be close to their home or work.

Regional Market Rates (RMR)

Every other year, CDE completes an RMR survey of child care providers. The survey collects information on what private child care providers charge to clients in each county or market area of the state. The state uses this data to calculate the maximum reimbursement ceilings for subsidized child care services. The current RMR rates can be found at www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/cd/ap/.

Family Fees

Some child care clients may be required to pay a share toward the cost of their child care, which is known as a family fee. The family fee requirements do not apply to families receiving CalWORKs cash aid or to Safety Net or sanctioned families. The fee structure is one fee per family, based on the family's income relative to the size of the family, and tops out at approximately 10 percent of the family's income. The family fee table is located on CDE website at www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/allmbs.asp.

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Center-based child care

CDE contracts directly with child care centers for a fixed number of slots. The services offered at these centers include an educational component that is developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate for the children served.

Voucher-based child care

All of the programs described below provide vouchers for families to obtain care in licensed child care centers, licensed family day care or licensed-exempt care. The family is able to choose the type of care that their child receives.

- CalWORKs Stage One Child Care:

This program provides child care to CalWORKs families when they are first engaged in work or welfare-to-work activities. CDSS administers the Stage One child care program through the county welfare departments (CWDs).

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CalWORKs Child Care Program

OTHER PROGRAMS (CONTINUED):

- CalWORKs Stage Two Child Care:

CalWORKs families move to this program when the CWD determines they are "stable". Families remain in Stage Two until they have been off cash aid for two years. CDE contracts with alternative payment program (APP) agencies, which administer this program.

- CalWORKs Stage Three Child Care:

Families that have exhausted their two years of CalWORKs Stage Two child care enter Stage Three. This program provides care as long as funding is available and the family is eligible. The CDE contracts with APP agencies, which administer this program.

- APP:

This program is funded by CDE through contracts. The APPs provide services to CalWORKs and other low-income families. The APPs may also contract with CWDs to administer Stage One child care. The APPs pay child care costs for eligible families and support families and providers by offering assistance and consumer information about various services and resources available to them.

OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Resource and Referral (R&R)

The CDE funds at least one R&R program in each county to provide information to parents and the community about the availability of child care in their county, and to assist potential providers in the licensing process and provide support services, including training. CDSS contracts with the R&R Network to process applications for background check clearances and to maintain the Trustline Registry. (Trustline is California's registry of license-exempt child care providers that have been through a criminal background screening and clearance process).

Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC)

In December 2011, California was awarded a \$52.6 million state-level grant by the United States (U.S.) Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the RTT-ELC initiative. The RTT-ELC focuses on improving California's early learning and development programs and increasing access to high-quality programs for high-needs children. The grant is based on four components: (1) building a high-quality early learning system; (2) connecting early learning with K-12; (3) increasing access to quality programs; and (4) providing comprehensive support for the development of the whole child.

The CDE is the lead state agency responsible for administering the grant over a four-year period. The CDSS will support CDE's efforts in the implementation of the RTT-ELC grant.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Child Welfare Services (CWS) Program

DESCRIPTION:

The CWS Program is California's primary statewide intervention program for abused, neglected and exploited children. The statutory authority for the CWS Program is contained in the Welfare and Institutions Code section 16500. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) serves as the state oversight entity, leading a collaboration between the state's 58 county welfare and probation departments, the California Welfare Director's Association, the Chief Probation Officers of California, federal, state and local government, the Legislature, the Judicial Branch, tribal representatives, philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders. The CDSS role is to provide supervision, fiscal and regulatory guidance, and training as well as the development of policies, procedures and programs in accordance with prescribed federal and state statutes governing child welfare.

The goal of the program is to protect children at risk of child abuse and neglect or exploitation through an integrated services delivery system, and to provide intensive services to families to ensure sufficient child safety, permanency and well-being to allow the families to stay together in their own homes. If county social workers, through the oversight of local juvenile courts, determine that out-of-home placement is the only safe option for a child, arrangement for temporary – or sometimes permanent – placement of the child in the safest and least restrictive environment possible is arranged and monitored by county child welfare agencies.

The CWS that are primarily delivered through the 58 counties include Emergency Response (ER), Family Maintenance (FM), Family Reunification (FR) and Permanent Placement (PP) services.

- The ER services are designed to provide in-person 24-hours-a-day response to reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation for the purpose of investigation, and to determine the necessity for providing initial intake services and crisis intervention to maintain the child safely in his/her own home, or to protect the safety of the child through emergency removal and foster care placement.
- The FM services consist of time-limited protective services provided to families in crisis to prevent or remedy abuse or neglect, with the intent of preserving families and keeping children safely in their own homes when possible. Social workers develop a case plan that includes services appropriate to each family's unique needs.
- The FR services consist of time-limited services to children in out-of-home care to prevent or remedy neglect, abuse or exploitation when the child cannot remain safely at home. These services are aimed at assisting families when the child needs to be placed in temporary foster care while services are made available to reunite the family.
- The PP services offer alternative family structures for children who cannot remain safely at home and/or who are unlikely ever to return home. The PP caseload includes children in a legal guardianship with an unrelated caregiver, and those in independent living services. It also includes children with a pending guardianship with a relative or pending adoption.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Child Welfare Services (CWS) Program

TRANSITION SERVICES

This is a newly established caseload of young adults continuing in foster care as enacted by Assembly Bill 12 (Chapter 559, Statutes of 2010) beginning January 1, 2011. These services are focused on assisting the youth in meeting the goals necessary to transition successfully to adulthood. Eligibility is contingent upon the youth's participation in employment, career development activities, education or having a medical condition that prohibits such activities.

FUNDING:

Effective July 2011, the CWS Program is funded with federal, Local Revenue and county funds. Federal funds pursuant to Titles A (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), IV-B (Child Welfare), IV-E (Foster Care), XIX (Medicaid) and XX (Social Services Block Grant) of the Social Security Act and other funds are leveraged using the Local Revenue and county funds.

ELIGIBILITY:

All children who are at risk of, or have already suffered abuse, neglect or exploitation and their families are eligible for either the federal, nonfederal or county-only funded services.

OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION:

In January 2004, CDSS implemented a statewide accountability system that replaced a process-oriented, regulatory compliance review system. The California-Child and Family Services Review system (C-CFSR) is an enhanced version of the federal oversight system used to monitor the states. The system is based on outcome data that measures key federal and state enriched performance indicators, such as the rate of recurrence of maltreatment, number of foster home placements, length of time to reunification with birth parents and the rates of adoption. Unlike the federal process, the C-CFSR contains specifically-developed measures for child and family well-being.

Under the C-CFSR, all counties are reviewed on a five-year cycle. The review consists of a county self-assessment, which is based on the county's performance indicators and strongly influenced by local stakeholder input; a Peer Quality Case Review designed to identify and prioritize critical local needs and a System Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP identifies measurable improvements that the county will make annually to improve outcomes for children. The CDSS approves each county SIP, and monitors compliance using quarterly performance reports produced from the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System on a quarterly basis.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Community Care Licensing

DESCRIPTION:

Community Care Licensing (CCL) is a regulatory enforcement program with the responsibility of protecting the health and safety of children and adults residing in, or spending a portion of their time in, out-of-home care. Facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services' CCL program include foster family homes (FFH) and family child care homes (FCCH). The FFHs, 69 percent of which are licensed by the counties through contract with CCL, provide 24-hour non-medical care (medical care is now permitted under certain circumstances) in the licensee's family residence for not more than six foster children. The FCCHs, about ten percent of which are licensed by the counties through contract with CCL, provide child day care for up to 14 children in the licensees' own home for periods of less than 24 hours per day.

The objective of the program is to ensure that all clients are served by licensed facilities that meet established standards for health and safety, which provide a homelike setting with the least restrictive environment for clients.

To achieve this objective, CCL: establishes standards for health and safety in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code; licenses facilities and performs facility inspections; assists providers to maintain compliance with licensing regulations and pursues administrative actions when licensing standards are not met. The CCL also conducts criminal background checks of licensees, employees and all adults providing direct services to, or having routine contact with, clients in care.

FUNDING:

There are currently 39 counties providing FFH licensing and recruitment services. Federal funding for these services is provided by Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Funding for the remaining costs are 100 percent General Fund (GF). Additional federal spending authority is included based on actual expenditures.

There are currently three counties providing FCCH licensing services. Funding for these services includes reimbursements from the California Department of Education (from the federal Child Care Development Block Grant fund) to cover a portion of the costs of conducting comprehensive site visits. The remaining costs are funded with 100 percent GF.

ELIGIBILITY:

Facilities licensed by counties must meet minimum licensing standards in order to maintain the privilege of providing care and supervision.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Community Care Licensing

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Foster Care Services for Adults

Foster care services for adults are those services or activities that assess needs and arrange for the substitute care and alternate living situations suitable to the individual's needs. Individuals may need such services because of social, physical or mental disabilities, or as a consequence of previous abuse or neglect. Care may be provided in a community-based setting or services may arrange for institutionalization when necessary.

Day Care Services for Adults

Day care services for adults are those services or activities provided to adults who require care and supervision in a protective setting for a portion of a 24-hour day. Component services or activities may include the opportunity for social interaction, companionship and self-education, health support or assistance in obtaining health services, counseling, recreation and general leisure time activities, meals, personal care services, plan development and transportation. Individuals may need such services because of social, physical or mental disabilities, or as a consequence of previous abuse or neglect.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Foster Care

DESCRIPTION:

Foster care is a service that is provided in all 58 counties through the Child Welfare Services system that is California's primary statewide intervention program for abused, neglected and/or exploited children. The primary payment source for foster care is Aid to Families with Dependent Children - Foster Care.

Although children and youth can come into the state's foster care program through several different doors, the vast majority come through a county child welfare agency as a result of being removed from their parents' custody and becoming a dependent of the juvenile court because they cannot live safely at home. Some older youth come into foster care as a ward of the juvenile court on probation as a result of committing a criminal offense. Children who are being cared for by a non-related legal guardian may also receive foster care benefits.

When children or youth are removed from their parents' custody and placed in foster care under the jurisdiction of the local juvenile court, state and federal laws require that they be placed in the least restrictive placement necessary to meet their needs. In order of preference, the primary placement categories are:

- Noncustodial parent
- Relative or nonrelated extended family member (e.g., godparent)
- Unrelated foster family home
- Foster Family Agency certified foster home
- Group Home

When children are removed from their parents' custody, state and federal laws requires that reasonable efforts be made to reunify the child with the parent(s). When it is not possible for the child to safely return to the parent(s), the law requires that a permanent plan be determined for the child. When permanency cannot be achieved through reunification, other options which provide the child a safe and stable permanent family must be pursued, specifically through adoption or guardianship. Reunification, adoption or guardianship are the permanency options which allow a child to leave foster care and court jurisdiction.

The juvenile court plays a key role for ensuring due process and accountability when children are removed from their homes. Court hearings are held every six months to ensure that reasonable efforts are being made to meet the requirements of the case plan and that the needs of the child are met.

FUNDING:

Effective July 2011, the Foster Care program is primarily funded with federal Title IV-E, Local Revenue and county fund. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Title XX funds are also used for eligible program costs.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Foster Care

ELIGIBILITY:

There are six eligibility requirements to receive for federal foster care funding: Deprivation, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Linkage, Removal by Court Order, Property, Residency and Citizenship.

- Deprivation – Deprived of a parent, by absence, death, unemployment or disability, at the time of removal and on-going.
- AFDC Linkage – Home of removal (including child's income) qualifies for AFDC at the 1996 income guidelines during petition month or in the six months prior to removal.
- Removal by Court Order – Language on the court order includes such phrases as: contrary to the welfare of the child to remain in the home; suitable placement and reasonable efforts made to prevent removal from the parent/guardian; or Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA), which is only for 180 days, and then the child must reunify, be removed by a court order, be released for adoption, or have the VPA formally extended.
- Property – Child must have property and/or assets less than \$10,000.
- Residency – Child must have been a resident of California at the time when he/she entered foster care.
- Citizenship – Only United States citizens, permanent legal residents or those with Permanent Residents under Color of Law are eligible.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In-Home Supportive Services

DESCRIPTION

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) programs provide an alternative to out-of-home care for low-income aged, blind and disabled individuals. IHSS consists of four programs: the Medi-Cal Personal Care Services Program (PCSP); the IHSS Plus Option (IPO), a Medi-Cal State plan option which replaced the IHSS Plus Waiver Program (IPW); the new Community First Choice Option (CFCO), which became effective December 1, 2011; and the IHSS Residual (IHSS-R) program.

Recipients of PCSP, IPO and CFCO services must be eligible for Medi-Cal. The IHSS-R program serves individuals who are not eligible for Medi-Cal, but meet the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) income standards. Recipients of all IHSS programs must need program services in order to remain safely in their own home and avoid out-of-home care. IHSS services include domestic and related services (e.g., housework, meal preparation, laundry, shopping), personal care services, accompaniment to medical appointments, protective supervision for the mentally-impaired recipients who may place themselves at risk for injury, hazard, or accident and paramedical services when directed by a physician.

ELIGIBILITY

- PCSP – Eligible for Medi-Cal, has a chronic disabling condition, and has an assessed need for services in order to remain safely at home and avoid out-of-home care.
- IPO – Eligible for Medi-Cal, has a chronic disabling condition, and has an assessed need for services in order to remain safely at home and avoid out-of-home care. Not eligible for PCSP because of one of the following conditions: services are provided by a spouse or by a parent of a minor child; recipient receives advance pay; recipient receives Restaurant Meal Allowance.
- CFCO – Eligible for Medi-Cal, has a chronic disabling condition, has an assessed need for services in order to remain safely at home and avoid out-of-home care, and is determined eligible for Nursing Facility Level of Care.
- IHSS-R – Meets SSI/SSP income standards, aged (65 or older), blind, or disabled, and has an assessed need for services to remain safely at home and avoid out-of-home care.

FUNDING

The PCSP and IPO programs are eligible for federal financial participation (FFP) under Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medi-Cal) at a Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) of 50 percent.

The CFCO program is also eligible for FFP under Title XIX at a FMAP of 56 percent effective December 1, 2011.

The IHSS-R program is funded by state General Fund and county funds. The state funds 65 percent of service costs and 70 percent of county program administrative costs. The counties fund the balance.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In-Home Supportive Services

FUNDING (CONTINUED):

When IHSS becomes a Medi-Cal managed care benefit in September 2013 under the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) program, each county will be responsible for paying a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) amount instead of paying a percentage of program costs. Each county's MOE is based on program expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2011-12 adjusted for savings for CFCO-eligible case eligible for the additional six percent FMAP over a seven months period. This MOE applies to all counties effective July 1, 2012, regardless of when participation in the CCI begins.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) Program

DESCRIPTION:

The Kin-GAP program is a permanency and payment program that promotes moving a youth/non-minor who is a dependent or ward of the juvenile court from foster care to a permanent home with a relative through guardianship. The program ensures stability through support of the guardian by continuing a benefit payment and the youth's/non-minor's eligibility for Medi-Cal.

Newly enacted Assembly Bill 12 (Chapter 559, Statutes of 2010) allowed California to restructure the current Kin-GAP program to meet federal eligibility requirements contained in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351) to draw down federal funds and to provide additional benefits to program recipients. Effective January 1, 2011, California started receiving federal Title IV-E financial participation for Kin-GAP cases, which are federal Title IV-E eligible. The restructuring of the program includes reducing the amount of time (from 12 months to six months) the dependent/delinquent youth/non-minor must live with the caregiver prior to establishing legal guardianship, executing a written agreement with the caregiver which provides that the payment can be periodically renegotiated to address change in circumstances of the caregiver and needs of the youth/non-minor, and interstate portability of benefits when the family moves outside California.

FUNDING:

The Kin-GAP program is funded with federal Title IV-E funds for federally-eligible cases, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds for nonfederally-eligible cases, General Fund and county funds.

ELIGIBILITY:

The basic eligibility requirements of Kin-GAP are:

- The relative guardian has been assessed/approved as meeting licensing standards.
- Efforts to return the youth/non-minor to the parents have failed and the dependent/delinquent youth/non-minor cannot return home.
- The relative is unwilling/unable to adopt for personal, familial, cultural or financial reasons.
- The dependent/delinquent youth/non-minor has been in placement with the relative at least 12 months (six months under the new federally-compliant program) and has a stable, ongoing, well-functioning family relationship.
- The family, relative and youth/non-minor have no need for ongoing supervision or supportive services from the public agency.
- The relative is appointed guardian of the youth/non-minor and court jurisdiction is terminated.
- The agency has entered into a written, binding agreement with the relative caregiver.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Office of Child Abuse Prevention

DESCRIPTION:

This describes the grants associated with assisting local and private agencies in the development and strengthening of child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment programs. The federal grants include those under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The CAPTA grants consist of Title I (the former Parts A and B) and Title II, otherwise known as the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant.

The Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) funds are used to fulfill federal CBCAP grant matching and leveraging requirements. The CAPIT program was established by Assembly Bill 1733 (Chapter 1398, Statutes of 1982) to fund prevention, early intervention and treatment services for children at risk of abuse and/or neglect. With the passage of Senate Bill 1013 (Chapter 35, Statutes of 2012) that implemented Realignment 2011, counties are no longer required to contract for services. Therefore, the counties may now use CAPIT funds in-house to provide direct services (such as home visiting, counseling, etc.) to the target population as long as federal match requirements continue to be met.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) received a federal grant to fund the Linkages Project. The CDSS, in collaboration with the Child and Family Policy Institute of California enhanced, expanded, and measured the impacts of Linkages. Linkages is a strategic effort involving nearly 30 counties in California to improve coordination between the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and Child Welfare Services (CWS) programs. The mission of Linkages is to deepen and broaden collaboration and coordination of CalWORKs and CWS at the county level to better serve families and improve outcomes. Through training and support, Linkages also works towards increasing the number of counties co-locating services, supports counties in developing strategies to serve at least one identified underserved population, and strengthens data collection practices and counties' use of data for continuous improvement of service delivery and systems integration. Funding for the Linkages Grant expired on September 30, 2011, and funding is now provided using CAPTA funds.

Funding from CAPTA is also used by the state to fund improvements statewide in areas such as improving risk and safety assessments, assessing families' needs for services, and strengthening linkages between child welfare services, public health, mental health and developmental disabilities agencies to screen children ages 0-5 years who have come to the attention of child protective services and are in need of early intervention services. Funds are also used to enhance the capacity of family resource centers and family support programs to provide services to strengthen families, including those referred through Differential Response.

Through an interagency agreement between the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and CDSS, and a contract between CDSS and Rady Children's Hospital – San Diego, there is a pass-through of money from a federal home visiting grant to CDPH to fund a cascading implementation of the SafeCare home visiting model. The funds then come to CDSS as a reimbursement, and ultimately to Rady Hospital.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Office of Child Abuse Prevention

ELIGIBILITY:

Counties are not required to participate in the CBCAP Program. In order to receive the allocation, counties must submit an application and report annually on activities from the previous year. Through the annual application process, counties agree to specific CBCAP requirements and assurances. Currently, 57 counties have elected to participate in the CBCAP allocation process. The CBCAP funds should be used to target services to vulnerable families with children that are at risk of abuse and/or neglect. In general, CBCAP funds should support primary prevention programs and activities meant to impact families prior to allegations of abuse and/or neglect, and secondary prevention programs and activities that target families that have one or more risk factors, including families referred to a child welfare hotline for abuse and/or neglect.

The CAPIT target population includes children who are at high risk; children who are being served by the county welfare departments for abuse and/or neglect, and other children who are referred for services by legal, medical or social services agencies and their families. Welfare and Institutions Code section 18963 (c) (1), states that "county plans shall explain how services funded by CAPIT are coordinated with the array of services available in the county and are based on unmet need".

PROGRAM DATA:

A total of 168,697,237 individuals and families were served using CBCAP funds during federal fiscal year 2010. This included 48,446 individuals; 36,391 parents; and 1,227 parents/caretakers with disabilities who received some form of direct services. In addition, 673,094 individuals received information and referrals, and 167,975,697 received public awareness and education materials.

Counties are allocated a total of \$13,395,000 using CAPIT funds through FY 2012-13. Small counties receive a preset minimum funding level. The remaining distribution uses a formula that considers a county's child population (under age 18), children receiving public assistance and child abuse reports.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP)

DESCRIPTION:

SSI/SSP provides a monthly cash benefit to enable aged, blind, and disabled people to meet basic living expenses for food, clothing, and shelter. The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers and issues SSI and SSP payments concurrently as a single benefit in California under a contract between SSA and the state. The 2013 maximum SSI/SSP for a typical individual is \$866.40 (\$710.00 SSI and \$156.40 SSP). Each state sets its own SSP rates and living arrangement categories. All SSI recipients receive SSP, but recipients with outside income may receive only SSP.

The SSA performs all functions related to the administration of SSP, e.g., receive and process the application, determine disability, detect and collect overpayments, issue payments and notices, and handle appeals. The contract also contains a description of the SSP living arrangements and sets out both the state's and SSA's rights and responsibilities.

Under current federal law, states must meet Maintenance-Of-Effort (MOE) requirements. Under the MOE requirements, states must either maintain the SSP levels that existed in 1983 or match the total SSP expenditures that they paid in the preceding calendar year. California has always used the payment level method to meet the MOE requirement. Failure to meet the MOE requirements would result in loss of federal funding for Medi-Cal. Currently, California's SSP rates have been reduced to those that existed in 1983 except for three living arrangement categories: (1) the Restaurant Meal Allowance; (2) Title XIX Medical Facility; and (3) Non-Medical Out-Of-Home Care. The state cannot reduce Supplementary Payments further unless the total expenditure method can be used to meet MOE requirements and also allow for a reduction.

FUNDING:

SSI is a federally-funded benefit. SSP is a payment added to the SSI benefit and funded by the state's General Fund. In 1994, SSA started charging a per-check administrative fee for its administration of SSP. The fee increases each year based on a cost-of-living adjustment formula different than that used for the SSI payment itself. In federal fiscal year 2012, SSA charged the state an administrative fee of \$10.94 per check issued, which increased to \$11.12 effective October 1, 2012.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for SSI/SSP, a person must be at least 65 years-old, blind, or disabled (including blind or disabled children). A qualified recipient must file an application with SSA. Federal criteria determine eligibility. A qualified SSI recipient is automatically qualified for SSP. To be eligible for SSI and maintain eligibility, a person must meet certain income and resource requirements.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP)

PROGRAM DATA:

Caseload Information (as of June 2012, SSP 107 Report)

SSI/SSP served a population of 1,280,605 in the following categories:

- Aged: 356,543
- Blind: 19,036
- Disabled: 905,026